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Provide an overview of your professional background and expertise in the field of education technology.

I am the CAO for Learn21, responsible for the strategy and execution of instructional technology goals for the organization. I previously worked for Clarity Innovations where I oversaw the team who delivers educational resources to some of the biggest names in edtech. I spent five years as the Director of Online Learning at Davidson Academy Online, overseeing both its academic and institutional operations. Prior to that, I worked as a consultant to school districts and other organizations focusing on developing and implementing digital learning programs. My roots are in the classroom with a passion for educational technology. I have served as a public school teacher and technology director.

I have been a regular presenter at industry events, including the CoSN Conference, ISTE Live, and Digital Learning Annual Conference. I am widely recognized as a leader in the education technology community, serving on committees for CoSN and as an ISTE Community Leader. I serve on The Online Learning Journal's Editorial Review Board, NAGC's Teaching for High Potential Editorial Advisory Committee, and contribute to important topics in edtech for EdCircuit.

I earned a Doctorate in Educational Technology from Boise State University, a Masters in Educational Administration from Ashland University, and Bachelors in Business Administration from the University of Georgia. My dissertation, Impact of Internet Connection on Gifted Students' Perceptions of Course Quality at an Online High School, has been downloaded in over 60 countries. I am a CoSN Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) and have teaching and school administration licenses in Nevada.

Identify the top two priorities that you believe CoSN should prioritize over the next three years.

As much as I'd like to be creative in these responses, the most obvious priority has to be providing resources and support for schools and school systems related to generative AI. The impact that generative AI is going to have on our world has been compared to an Oppenheimer moment. We are barely scratching the surface of how these changes are going to impact education. CoSN has an opportunity to strengthen its value proposition to members by continuing to be a leader, advocate, and voice of reason as we all grapple with the myriad and pace of changes that are coming at educators as a result of advances in generative AI.

The second priority, which is likely to be exacerbated by generative AI, is equity in education. The mass transition to one-to-one spurred on by the pandemic moved education systems toward a more equitable distribution of devices, but this is just a small step in the path toward true equity. CoSN has an opportunity to help define equity in education as more than just everyone with a device. Equity in education is deeper and requires advocacy and resources for affordable, high-speed home internet connections, robust school infrastructures that support a variety of devices and applications, school cultures that ensure classrooms are encouraging creativity and creation rather than consumption, support systems for students and families that help them understand and adjust to the new opportunities advances in technology is creating, and technology standards that move students, teachers, and education forward.

Please explain how your diverse background, personal and professional, will help impact the CoSN Board.

My life experiences are varied on just about every level. With our recent relocation to Texas for my husband's job, I've now lived my adult life in the South, Midwest, Pacific Northwest, and Southwest. I've held teaching and/or administrative licenses in Ohio, Oregon, and Nevada. This experience gives me a broad perspective of education and its impact on students and educators from a variety of perspectives and backgrounds across the US.

I grew up in Georgia and am a first-generation college graduate. As a child, our family would have been described as economically-disadvantaged. I saw education as my path to a different future and I am passionate about helping others use education to change their futures.

My work experience is also diversified. My undergraduate degree is in business, I managed several multi-million dollar businesses before realizing that education was my passion. After volunteering at my children's school I decided to go back to school and become a teacher. I've taught in inner-city schools, suburban school districts, parochial schools, and public schools. As a consultant, I've helped design and build digital learning ecosystems across the US for over a decade.

All of these life experiences allow me to bring a diverse perspective with an eye for global impact to the CoSN board. I recognize that while schools can be pointed toward the same goal of student success they may all require different paths to get there. We can make a global impact by addressing individual needs.

Outline your pertinent leadership experience within nonprofit entities (e.g. board involvement, event management, and fundraising). Highlight any notable engagement with state or national education and/or educational technology associations.

My involvement with non-profit organizations began in the early 2000's as a Girl Scout Leader. After being a Troop leader for two years I was asked to step into the role of Service Unit Director where I oversaw operations and fundraising for over 20 troops. During this time, I also served on the Women's Guild at our church where I helped manage the largest juried craft show in the southeast.

When our children were in elementary school, I was approached by the principal and asked to run for PTO president. I served in this position for two years and oversaw all events, activities, and fundraising. I also helped to grow the organization so that we were more inclusive in our membership and programming.

I joined ISTE in 2011 and within two years was serving as the president of the Administrators PLN (formerly SIG). I am currently an ISTE Community Leader. My volunteer work with ISTE is largely about planning events and learning opportunities for educators.

I joined the Learn21 Board of Directors in 2018. Learn21 is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping schools refine their practices. They also serve as the Ohio CoSN Chapter. I served as the President of their board for three years which was a period of exponential growth.

I have been on the Advisory Board for the Digital Learning Annual Conference since its inception in 2019. This conference has grown from around 500 attendees to over 2,000 attendees.

CoSN places a strong emphasis on promoting diversity within the CTO profession and our organization as a whole. As a nominee for the CoSN Board, please elaborate on your strategies for enhancing diversity and share any instances where you have been involved in assessing or overseeing organizational diversity.

As a female in edtech and the parent of two female scientists, I understand firsthand how diversity helps create stronger organizations and a more resilient society. Promoting diversity in edtech leadership is crucial for fostering innovation, inclusivity, and equitable access. The primary principle for enhancing diversity is to recognize and treat others as individuals and not based on characteristics that assign them to groups. While I am a white woman, people who judge me on those two traits completely misjudge who I am.

We also need to recognize our own biases and actively educate ourselves to dispense with them. This means being open to honest dialogue on racially and culturally sensitive topics. This dialogue includes receiving and giving feedback when there are growth opportunities. I recently heard a webinar presenter 'joke' with a group of primarily white attendees that "he could tell from the audience that we loved rap music." I reached out and let him know his comments were culturally insensitive and encouraged him to think more deeply about how his words reflected on his message.

Outreach and mentorship programs are also effective methods for improving diversity. Collaborating with a sincere heart with organizations and networks that focus on promoting diversity in educational technology leadership is something I would do. I've done this in the past with success. Additionally, I'd help develop mentorship programs to support emerging leaders from underrepresented groups. This can help provide opportunities for people who just need a little support to overcome barriers.

Detail your prior engagement with CoSN and/or our state chapters.
I have been an active member of CoSN and the Ohio CoSN chapter, serving from 2018 - 2023 on the Board of Directors and as Board President for three of those years for Learn21, the Ohio CoSN chapter. I have served as a member of CoSN Driving K-12 Innovation Board since 2021, the same year I joined the Emerging Technologies Committee. In 2022, I also joined the Digital Equity Committee. In August 2023, I beca
me the co-chair of CoSN's Edtech Innovation Committee (formerly Emerging Technology). Through my CoSN committee work, I have been invited to provide input as CoSN collaborates with other professional organizations to design resources to support educators and technology professionals as they adapt in a world of generative AI.
I have attended multiple CoSN Conferences and presented "Driving K-12 Innovation: Reimaging Learning in 2023 and Beyond," "You Only Have One Shot to Get it Right," and "If You Build It They Will Come" at CoSN 2023. I was also awarded a CoSN Impact 30 award and recognized as a member of the CoSN Volunteer Hall of Fame in 2023. I have served as a conference reviewer for CoSN for both the 2023 and 2024 conferences.
I earned my CETL certificate in 2022. Lastly, I have written multiple blog posts for CoSN and presented on webinars over the past few years. Being actively involved in CoSN has helped me to improve my understanding of and advocacy for effective edtech usage.